

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PC-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, EAID, US

SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVE TO MERGE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND UN VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY: DEPT AND PEACE CORPS WISH INITIATE PROCESS FOR
MERGER OF ISVS WITH UNV AIMED AT MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFEC-
TIVE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. ACTION: ADDRESSEES
REQUESTED TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF OUR PLANS,
SOLICIT THEIR COOPERATION AND REPORT RESULTS TO DEPT ASAP.

2. DEPT AND PEACE CORPS BELIEVE PRESENT TIME PROPITIOUS FOR
INITIATING PROCESS TO MERGE FUNCTIONS INTERNATIONAL SECRE-
TARIAT FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES (ISVS) AND UN VOLUNTEERS (UNV)

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PROGRAM BY EARLY 1975, GIVEN UPCOMING ELECTION OF ISVS

SECRETARY-GENERAL, SCHEDULED FOR 15TH COUNCIL SESSION IN OCTOBER 1973, AND EXPECTED DEPARTURE (ALTHOUGH UNCONFIRMED) OF UNV COORDINATOR BY END OF THIS YEAR.

3. WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED ISVS OF INTENDED CUTS IN U.S. GOVERNMENT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, A STEP DESIGNED TO PUSH MERGER PROCESS. WE BELIEVE OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES, LIKE US, WILL BE INCREASINGLY HARD PRESSED TO JUSTIFY SUPPORT FOR TWO INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS. ALSO, THERE IS INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES AS EACH ORGANIZATION SHOWS TENDENCY TO ENCROACH ON OTHER'S FIELD OF ACTIVITY.

4. U.S. GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM AND WILL SUPPORT SINGLE PROGRAM EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED AND PROGRAMMED. WE BELIEVE UNV IS PREFERABLE VEHICLE BECAUSE AS PART OF UN SYSTEM IT HAS FAR BROADER MEMBERSHIP THAN ISVS AND USES UNDP RESOURCES. HOWEVER, UNV'S PRESENT MANDATE WILL HAVE TO BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS (A FUNCTION CURRENTLY CARRIED OUT BY ISVS) AND MORE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP FOUND IF IT IS TO CONTINUE SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS OF ISVS.

5. BACKGROUND: LARGELY AT U.S. INITIATIVE ISVS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1962 TO PROVIDE CENTRAL CLEARING HOUSE FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND CONDUIT FOR ASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS. ISVS IS FUNDED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISVS COUNCIL MEMBERS, WITH USG LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR (28 PERCENT). INITIALLY IN WASHINGTON, ISVS NOW LOCATED IN GENEVA. IN 1970, ALSO LARGELY AT U.S. INITIATIVE, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2659 (XXV) ESTABLISHING UNV PROGRAM AS A PART OF UNDP. UNV PROGRAM, HEADQUARTERED IN GENEVA WITH COORDINATOR APPOINTED BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR, CONTRACTED WITH ISVS TO USE LATTER'S CLEARING HOUSE FOR RECRUITING, SELECTING AND TRAINING UN VOLUNTEERS. THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF UN VOLUNTEERS IN FIELD AND WAS RECENTLY EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 1974.

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6. IN TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF OPERATIONS UNV HAS PLACED 171 VOLUNTEERS FROM 30 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING 11 LDC'S, IN FIELD. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THIS RECORD AND BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR BETTER WITH MORE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP.

7. AT 16TH SESSION OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN JUNE 1973, WE URGED BOTH UNV AND ISVS GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO

BETTER JOINT UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES. WE ALSO MADE KNOWN OUR CONCERN LEST UNV EXPAND INTO FIELD OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS UNDER PRESENT MANDATE. ON OTHER HAND, AT 14TH ISVS COUNCIL MEETING MAY 1973, WE VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION (SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED) ASSIGNING HIGH PRIORITY TO NEW MULTINATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS (ESTABLISHED IN PANAMA, YEMEN AND CHILE) BECAUSE WE BELIEVE SUCH PROGRAMS DUPLICATE UNV EFFORTS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES, BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING, HAVE BEEN LESS

FORTHCOMING TOWARDS UNV THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR ISVS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS (SEE PARA 10) TO INFORM THEM OF U.S. VIEWS, DRAWING ON ABOVE INFORMATION. WE WOULD LIKE UNDERTAKE INITIATIVE AT 15TH ISVS COUNCIL SESSION IN OCTOBER AND AT UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION IN JANUARY TO EFFECT COURSE OF ACTION LEADING TO MERGER. WE WELCOME VIEWS ON AND SUPPORT FOR MERGER FROM OTHER MAJOR DONOR GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO ISVS OCTOBER COUNCIL SESSION. IF THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT BY ADDRESSEES ON BASIC IDEA OF MERGER, WE PREPARED SEND REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS TACTICS IN MORE DETAIL IN ORDER JOINTLY UNDERTAKE SUCH INITIATIVE AT 15TH ISVS COUNCIL SESSION.

9. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED REPLY BY SEPTEMBER 8 AND REPEAT REPLIES TO USUN AND US MISSION GENEVA.

10. ADDRESSEES REQUESTED TO CONTACT FOLLOWING OFFICIALS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR IN THEIR ABSENCE ONE OF THEIR STAFF:

BONN: MANFRED KULESSA, HEAD OF DED, AND DR. KARL KIRCHHOF,

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